

1. A method comprising:

providing a first container having a storage region for storing a first medicine, the first container further comprising a transceiver, a processor coupled to the transceiver, and a memory coupled to the processor; and

storing a computer program within the memory, the computer program executable by the processor and having computer program code that allows the first container to communicate with a second container via the transceiver.

2. A method for use by a first container that is adapted to store a first medicine, the method comprising:

- storing information regarding the first medicine; and
- wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a second container, the second container adapted to store a second medicine.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a second container comprises at least one of transmitting information regarding the first medicine from the first container to the second container and receiving information regarding the second medicine from the second container.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising generating at least one code based at least in part on the signal, the at least one code indicating whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising outputting the at least one code to at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy and a representative of a medical facility.

6. The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting if the first container and the second container cannot communicate.

1 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising determining if the first
2 container and the second container are separated by a distance that prevents the first
3 container and the second container from communicating.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining a time when the
2 first container and the second container are at least initially separated by the distance that
3 prevents the first container and the second container from communicating.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising at least one of storing the time
2 and transmitting the time.

1 10. The method of claim 2 further comprising determining a distance between
2 the first container and the second container based on the signal.

1 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of storing the
2 distance and transmitting the distance.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising determining a change in the
2 distance between the first container and the second container based on the signal.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising at least one of storing the
2 change in the distance and transmitting the change in the distance.

1 14. The method of claim 2 further comprising tracking a location of at least
2 one of the first and the second containers.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein tracking the location of at least one of the
2 first and the second containers comprises tracking the location of the at least one of the
3 first and the second containers with a local positioning system.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising identifying the location of the
2 at least one of the first and the second containers with the local positioning system.

1 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
2 obtaining information regarding a position of the at least one of the first
3 and the second containers with the local positioning system; and
4 determining a distance between the first and the second containers based
5 at least in part on the information.

1 18. The method of claim 2 further comprising receiving information regarding
2 a schedule for taking at least one of the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising storing the information.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein receiving information regarding a
2 schedule for taking the first medicine comprises receiving the information regarding the
3 schedule from at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative
4 of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility, a representative of a manufacturer
5 of at least one of the first and the second medicines and a party that is to take at least one
6 of the first and the second medicines.

1 21. The method of claim 2 further comprising storing the first medicine in the
2 first container.

1 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising detecting if a portion of the
2 first medicine has been removed from the first container.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first
2 medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting if the first
3 container has been opened or closed.

1 24. The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first
2 medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a weight of the
3 first container.

1 25. The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first
2 medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a count of the
3 first medicine.

1 26. The method of claim 22 further comprising at least one of storing
2 information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion
3 if the portion has been removed from the first container.

1 27. The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting if the second
2 medicine has been stored in the second container.

1 28. The method of claim 27 further comprising detecting if a portion of the
2 second medicine has been removed from the second container.

1 29. The method of claim 28 wherein detecting if the portion of the second
2 medicine has been removed from the second container comprises receiving a signal from
3 the second container that indicates that the portion of the second medicine has been
4 removed from the second container.

1 30. The method of claim 28 further comprising at least one of storing
2 information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion
3 if the portion has been removed from the second container.

1 31. The method of claim 30 further comprising storing the information
2 regarding the second medicine, the information being stored within the first container.

1 32. The method of claim 28 further comprising determining if the first
2 medicine is incompatible with the second medicine.

1 33. The method of claim 32 further comprising:
2 detecting if a party attempts to take the first medicine within a
3 predetermined time period of taking the second medicine; and

49. A medicine container comprising:
a medicine storage region adapted to store a medicine; and

3 a communication device adapted to wirelessly communicate at least one
4 signal between the medicine container and at least one other medicine container.

1 50. The medicine container of claim 49 wherein the communication device
2 comprises a transceiver.

1 51. A medicine container comprising:
2 a medicine storage region adapted to store a first medicine;
3 a communication device adapted to communicate at least one signal
4 between the medicine container and at least one other medicine container adapted to store
5 a second medicine;
6 a database adapted to store information regarding the first medicine;
7 a processor coupled to the database and to the communication device, the
8 processor adapted to communicate with the at least one other medicine container via the
9 communication device; and
10 a computer program, the computer program executable by the processor so
11 as to direct the processor to:
12 transmit information regarding the first medicine to the at least one
13 other medicine container, and
14 receive information regarding the second medicine from the at
15 least one other medicine container.

1 52. The medicine container of claim 51 wherein the database is further
2 adapted to store information regarding at least one medicine that is incompatible with the
3 first medicine.

1 53. The medicine container of claim 52 wherein the computer program further
2 comprises computer program code executable by the processor so as to direct the
3 processor to:
4 determine if the first medicine and the second medicine are incompatible
5 if taken within a pre-determined time period of each other, and if so:
6 generate a warning if a party attempts to take both the first and the
7 second medicines within the pre-determined time period.

1 65/ The method of claim 64 wherein the at least one code comprises a
2 plurality of codes.

1 72. The method of claim 59 wherein determining if a first container for storing
2 a first medicine is positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second container for
3 storing a second medicine comprises:

4 determining a time when the first container is not in communication with
5 the second container.

1 73. The method of claim 72 wherein the data comprises the time when the
2 first container is not in communication with the second container.

1 74. The method of claim 59 wherein determining if a first container for storing
2 a first medicine is positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second container for
3 storing a second medicine comprises:

4 receiving first data from the first container; and
5 receiving second data from the second container.

1 75. The method of claim 74 wherein at least one of the first and the second
2 data comprises an encrypted code.

1 76. The method of claim 74 wherein the first data comprises data regarding
2 whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and
3 wherein the second data comprises data regarding whether the at least one party has
4 complied with a schedule for taking the second medicine.

1 77. The method of claim 74 further comprising:
2 combining the first data and the second data so as to form third data; and
3 outputting the third data.

1 78. The method of claim 59 wherein determining if a first container for storing
2 a first medicine is positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second container for
3 storing a second medicine comprises receiving a signal from at least one of the first
4 container and the second container, wherein the signal comprises data regarding whether
5 at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the
6 second medicine.

1 79. The method of claim 59 wherein generating data based at least in part on
2 whether the first container is positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with the second
3 container comprises:

4 receiving first information regarding the first medicine and the second
5 medicine;

6 receiving second information regarding the first medicine and the second
7 medicine from at least one of the first container and the second container;

8 comparing the first information to the second information; and

9 generating at least an indicator of a level to which at least one party has
10 complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 80. The method of claim 59 wherein the first information comprises a
2 prescribed schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine and wherein
3 the second information comprises a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second
4 medicine adhered to by the at least one party.

1 81. The method of claim 79 wherein generating at least an indicator of a level
2 to which a party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the
3 second medicine comprises selecting one indicator from a plurality of indicators that
4 specify a plurality of levels of compliance.

1 82. The method of claim 79 wherein generating at least an indicator of a level
2 to which a party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the
3 second medicine comprises selecting one of an indicator of compliance and an indicator
4 of non-compliance.

1 83. The method of claim 79 further comprising transmitting the at least an
2 indicator.

1 84. The method of claim 59 further comprising determining at least one of an
2 amount of the first medicine taken by at least one party and an amount of the second
3 medicine taken by the at least one party.

1 85. The method of claim 84 wherein determining at least one of an amount of
2 the first medicine taken by at least one party and an amount of the second medicine taken
3 by the at least one party comprises receiving at least one signal from at least one of the
4 first container and the second container.

1 86. The method of claim 59 further comprising determining at least one of a
2 time that at least a portion of the first medicine was taken by at least one party and a time
3 that at least a portion of the second medicine was taken by the at least one party.

1 87. The method of claim 86 wherein determining at least one of a time that at
2 least a portion of the first medicine was taken by at least one party and a time that at least
3 a portion of the second medicine was taken by the at least one party comprises
4 determining at least one of a time that the first container was opened or closed and a time
5 that the second container was opened or closed.

1 88. The method of claim 59 further comprising determining a time that at least
2 a portion of the first medicine was taken by at least one party relative to a time that at
3 least a portion of the second medicine was taken by the at least one party.

1 89. The method of claim 59 further comprising determining at least one
2 parameter of at least one party that is to take the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 90. The method of claim 89 wherein the at least one parameter comprises at
2 least one of a blood pressure, a blood glucose level and a heart rate.

1 91. The method of claim 89 further comprising determining if the at least one
2 party has taken at least one of the first and the second medicines based on the at least one
3 parameter.

1 92. The method of claim 59 further comprising outputting the data.

1 93. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises outputting
2 the data to a server.

1 94. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises outputting
2 the data to at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a
3 pharmacy and a representative of a medical facility.

1 95. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises outputting
2 the data to at least one party that is to take the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 96. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises outputting
2 the data continuously.

1 97. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises outputting
2 the data periodically.

1 98. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises
2 determining if at least one of the first and the second containers needs to be refilled, and
3 if so, outputting the data.

1 99. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises:
2 receiving a request to output the data; and
3 outputting the data in response to the request.

1 100. The method of claim 99 wherein receiving a request to output the data
2 comprises receiving the request to output the data from at least one of a representative of
3 an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical
4 facility and a party that is to take the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 101. The method of claim 92 further comprising encrypting the data.

1 102. The method of claim 92 further comprising storing the data.

1 103. The method of claim 92 wherein outputting the data comprises:
2 processing the data; and
3 outputting the processed data.

1 104. The method of claim 103 wherein processing the data comprises
2 encrypting the data.

1 105. The method of claim 103 wherein processing the data comprises
2 calculating a level to which at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the
3 first medicine and the second medicine.

1 106. The method of claim 59 further comprising storing the data.

1 107. A method comprising:
2 receiving information regarding a first medicine and a second medicine;
3 and
4 determining if a first container for storing the first medicine is positioned
5 so as to wirelessly communicate with a second container for storing the second medicine.

1 108. The method of claim 107 further comprising generating data based at least
2 in part on whether the first container is positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with
3 the second container.

1 109. The method of claim 107 wherein receiving information regarding a first
2 medicine and a second medicine comprises receiving information from at least one of a
3 representative of a pharmacy, a representative of an insurance company, a representative
4 of a manufacturer of at least one of the first and the second medicines and a party that is
5 to take the first medicine and the second medicine.

1 110. The method of claim 107 wherein receiving information regarding a first
2 medicine and a second medicine comprises receiving information from at least one of the
3 first and the second containers.

1 111. The method of claim 107 further comprising storing the received
2 information.

1 112. The method of claim 107 further comprising generating a schedule for
2 taking the first and the second medicines based at least in part on the received
3 information.

1 113. The method of claim 107 further comprising transmitting a signal to at
2 least one of the first container and the second container to indicate a time when at least
3 one of the first medicine and the second medicine is to be taken.

1 114. A method comprising:
2 receiving information regarding a first medicine and a second medicine;
3 determining if a first container for storing the first medicine is positioned
4 so as to communicate with a second container for storing the second medicine; and
5 generating data that indicates whether at least one party has complied with
6 a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on
7 the received information and at least in part on whether the first container and the second
8 container are positioned to communicate.

1 115. An apparatus comprising:
2 a communication device adapted to communicate with at least a first
3 medicine container, the first medicine container being adapted to store a first medicine;
4 a processor coupled to the communication device, the processor adapted to
5 communicate with at least the first medicine container via the communication device;
6 a computer program, the computer program executable by the processor so
7 as to direct the processor to:
8 determine, based on at least a communication with the first
9 medicine container, whether the first medicine container is positioned so as to
10 wirelessly communicate with a second medicine container adapted to store a
11 second medicine; and
12 generate data based at least in part on whether the first medicine
13 container is positioned so as to communicate with the second medicine container.

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Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%
Unlabeled	65%

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